

<sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> *Sad News from R A T C L I F F:*

Being a Full and True

# RELATION

OF A

**Horrid and Bloody**

# MURDER,

Committed upon the Bodies of an Antient Gentlewoman, (Captain Giddings Wifes Mother) and his Sisters Child, who was a Girl of Two Years and a half Old, and a Maid-Servant in the House, by *Robert Condinge* Servant to Captain Giddings, *William Thomas* and *William Rogers*, all Seamen or pretended Seamen; who afterwards Robbed the House of Captain Giddings in *Brook-street Ratcliff*, on *Tuesday* the Thirteenth of this instant *January*. How *Condinge* was Apprehended (Selling the Plate they had Stolen) at a Goldsmiths Shop without *Aldgate*: With an Account of his Confession and Commitment to *Newgate*, &c. Faithfully Related and Published, to prevent Mistakes and False Reports.

*15. Jan. 1696*

**A**S every day produces new Examples of Barbarity and Murder, and tho' the Eye of Providence seldom leaves any Corner unsearched, for the Discovery of the Inhumane Actors of such unheard of Cruelties, to bring their Devilish Deeds to light, that thereby they may receive a Reward answerable to their Deserts: Yet the Devil is so conversant with some sort of Persons, who will venture their Souls, Lives, and all that is Dear unto them, to perpetrate their Villanies, notwithstanding the Daily Examples of Justice they meet with; one of which (and Impious in the Superlative Degree) this following Relation will furnish you with, which is published on purpose to prevent False Reports, as (without doubt) some People, upon such an Execrable Murder, will be otherwise apt to raise. And no longer to digress from the Relation, I shall Faithfully declare the Matter without any Addition, Equivocation, or Mendacity whatsoever.

Captain *William Giddings*, who liveth in *Brook-street* in *Ratcliff*, about three Months since took to Prentice one *Robert Condinge* aged about Eighteen-Years, who proved a Dissolute young Man, and led a more Reprobate Life, whom Captain *Giddings* never had any good opinion of; notwith-

notwithstanding he still acted in his Station indifferent well : But coming ashore about Nine days since at *Blackwall*, to the Sign of the *Rose and Crown*, he (as the Devil had appointed) chanced to come in Company with two Men, who pretended to be Press-masters, one whose Name was *William Thomas*, and the other *William Rogers*, they drinking together for some Hours, came so far acquainted, that they in a little time made this Infernal Conclusion, That they would Rob the House of Capt. *Giddings*, and Murther his Family, which they thus brought to pass.

Upon *Tuesday* the Thirteenth of this instant *January*, the aforesaid *Robert Condinge* came to *Ratcliff* to his Master's House, at which time Captain *Giddings* happened to be from Home about his Affairs, and his Wife was gone to a Christening, leaving only her Mother (an ancient Gentlewoman) and his Suters Child, being a little Girl, aged two Years and a half, and a Maid Servant. *Condinge* had not been long in the House, ere *Thomas* and *Rogers* knocked at the Door, who asked to speak with *Condinge*, and were accordingly (fatally) admitted; they had not been long in the House, ere they desired the Maid, (the better to compass their hellish Design) to fetch them a Pennyworth of *Tabacco*; but as soon as she was gone, they set upon the old Gentlewoman, knock'd her down with a Smith's Iron Hand-Maw, and gave her an extraordinary large cut with a Hand-Cleaver over the Forehead cross-ways, that she immediately died; and the Child crying, *Rogers* swore, *Damn it, does it make a Noise? Kill it.* Which inhumanly they did, and the Maid returning with the *Tabacco*, they knock'd down, as before, and gave her a Cut cross the Forehead with the Cleaver, so deep that her Brains came out upon the floor.

Then they ransack'd the House, and stole of Plate, a double and single Tankard, and six Spoons, besides Rings, Jewels, currant Gold; and other things to a great value; but was in such haste, that they left two Silver Porringers in a Chest of Drawers, and other Childrens Plate. *Thomas* and *Rogers* being old politick Rogues, took the Money, Gold, &c. and gave *Condinge* the two Tankards and Spoons; who went to a Goldsmith's Shop without *Algate*, and asked to buy a Ring, but for the payment he offered one of the Spoons, and likewise he offered the rest of them and the Tankards to sale, he looking like an idle Fellow, and giving no good Account how he came by them, the Goldsmith caused him to be seiz'd; and a crowd of People gathering together, and some of them seeing the Marks of the Plate, charg'd him with the Murther; which at first he stiffly deny'd, till being promised Liberty if he leache'd his Confederates, he confess'd he was accessory to it, but did not assist in it, he looking on till the other did it, and that he was to meet them at a Strong-water-Shop in *Wapping* that Night. Upon which he was had before a Justice, and committed to *Newgate*, and search made for the other two, but could not be found that night: But yesterday being the Fourteenth of this Instant, *William Thomas* was taken and sent to *Newgate* to keep the other company, and we doubt not but their number will quickly be compleated; for diligent search is made for *Rogers*, who is not like to scape from the hands of Justice. What Lamentation and Cries there were in this unhappy House when the unwelcom News arrived to the Ears of Captain *Giddings* and his Wife, I leave the Reader to judge, and shall conclude, *From Battel, Murther, and from sudden Death, Good Lord deliver us.*